CONFIDENTIAL.] [No. 12 of 1901.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd March 1901.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
I.—Foreign Politics.	
The Amir's autobiography	213
II.—Home Administration.	
(a)—Police—	
Rowdyism in the Comilla district	*ib.*
Postponement of the Badhalhat *mélá*	*ib.*
Zamindari oppression in Khulna	*ib.*
A complaint against the Faridpur police ...	*ib.*
The police in a supposed murder case	214
Sale of cocaine in Calcutta	*ib.*
Sale of liquor during unauthorised hours ...	*ib.*
(b)—Working of the Courts—	
Mr. Pennell	*ib.*
Mr. Pennell's suspension	215
Mr. Pennell	*ib.*
Mr. Pennell's judgment	217
Mr. Merenda, sarishtadar of the Chittagong Judge's Court	218
Mr. Pennell	*ib.*
Dilatoriness of a Court Peshkar and a Court Sub-Inspector	*ib.*
Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Godda ...	219
Mr. Pennell	*ib.*
Miss Pennell at Noakhali	*ib.*
The people and Mr. Pennell's judgment ...	*ib.*
Mr. Pennell	*ib.*
(c)—Jails—	
Nil.	
(d)—Education—	
Preparation of text-books under the new vernacular education scheme	220
The Bengali passage set for translation in the Entrance Examination	*ib.*
Miss Nirmalabala Shome as an University Examiner	*ib.*
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	
Oppressions at ferry-ghats	*ib.*
Water scarcity in a village in the Khulna district ...	*ib.*
Plague and the *bustis* in Calcutta	*ib.*
(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
Zamindars and raiyats	*ib.*
(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
A railway complaint	221
Gazetted holidays not observed in the railway office at Sahibganj	*ib.*
(h)—General.	
The plague examination at Chausa	*ib.*
Census *begar*	*ib.*
III.—Legislation.	
Mr. Cotton and the Assam coolies	222
The passing of the Cooly Law	*ib.*
The Hindu Religious Endowments Bill ...	*ib.*
The Assam Labour Act	223
Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill	*ib.*
The Cooly Law	224
Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill	*ib.*
Mr. Cotton	*ib.*
IV.—Native States.	
Nil.	
V.—Prospects of the crops and condition of the people.	
Nil.	
VI.—Miscellaneous.	
The memorial question	225
Babu Lakshman Das's memorial to the late Queen-Empress	*ib.*
The Mahanta of Chandranath	*ib.*
An expression of the tea planters' gratitude to Lord Curzon	226
Uriya Papers.	
Caste figures in the census	*ib.*
The reason why the population of Balasore shows a decrease	*ib.*
Mr. Pennell's judgment	*ib.*
Mr. Luson's arrangements at Puri on the census night	*ib.*
The extra Munsif at Puri and his staff ignorant of Uriya	227
The Governor of Madras mixing with his native subjects	*ib.*
Assam Papers.	
Nil.	

la
fo
re
co
an
su
ad
an
gi
be
ki
In
lit
in
Th
off
he
an
ea

R
dist

the
enq
nea
wo

Pe
mela

bra
in
by
the

Za

Ann
of
fron
who
hom
case
cons
neig
thei

unde
says

A c
pur p

Fari

I.—Foreign Politics.

The Amir's autobiography.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hoblul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that the *Quarterly Review*, in noticing the autobiography of the ruling Amir of Afghanistan, lays great stress upon the fact that the Amir is a very honest and straightforward ruler, and recommends that England ought to comply with his request regarding the exchange of Ambassadors between both the kingdoms. All the conditions imposed on Afghanistan by the Durand Treaty have been satisfied, and no pretext remains for the India Office to refuse the Amir's request. In support of the demand of the Amir, the Review either through ignorance or advisedly, says that Afghanistan ought to be given the privilege of stationing an Ambassador in England on the same condition on which Persia has been given the privilege. But it is evident that Persia unlike Afghanistan has long been enjoying the privilege both as regards England and all European kingdoms. Persia is not politically dependent upon the British Government in India as is the case with Afghanistan. The Review advises the Amir to be a little more tolerant and less strict than at present in respect of foreign trade in his dominion, for otherwise he is sure to lose the confidence of England. The reviewer further requests the British Government to create a special office in England for the purpose of dealing with the eastern question, because her connection with the Asiatic rulers is growing more and more intimate, and also because her Foreign Office is not sufficiently able to cope with the eastern affairs.

Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen, Mar. 11th, 1901.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—*Police.*

2. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 13th March writes as follows:—

Rowdyism in the Comilla district.

A number of rowdies have made their appearance in thana Burichang within the jurisdiction of the Kotwali. The enquiry by the Sub-Inspector of the Kotwali has made matters worse. The villagers have prayed for a fresh enquiry by the Inspector himself, but nothing has yet been done, although nearly a month has elapsed. The delay, it is believed, is due to pressure of work in his office.

Pratinidhi, Mar 13th, 1901.

3. A correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th March says that the Deputy Magistrate of Bagerhat should put off the Badhalhat *mela* for the present because the water of the neighbouring places is now very brackish, and also because cholera has broken out in some places. Badhalhat is in a very filthy state now, and as on a previous occasion the *mela* was stopped by the Deputy Magistrate, he should follow the same course this time too for the good of the public.

Postponement of the Badhalhat *mela*.

Khulna, Mar. 14th, 1901.

4. One Sarada Prasad Roy Chowdhury, writing in the same paper says that he belongs to a poor but respectable family and was cruelly oppressed by Babus Annada Prasad Ghose and Monomohan Ghose, who forcibly took possession of whatever paternal property was left to him by taking forced *kabuliyats* from his tenants after beating them and capturing their cows. The tenants who reported the matter to the police were forcibly brought from their homes by *lathials* and made to pay fines ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. False cases also were brought against them for arrears of rent. The *lathials* are constantly patrolling the streets, and the tenants have fled for their lives to neighbouring villages where they have cancealed themselves and are passing their days very miserably.

Zamindari oppression in Khulna.

Khulna.

The editor is unwilling to believe that such atrocities can be perpetrated under the British rule, but, if there be any truth in what the correspondent says, the Magistrate should himself hold an enquiry.

5. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 14th March writes as follows:—

A complaint against the Faridpur police.

A dacoity was committed in the house of Peary Mohan Karmakar at Khalilpur it the district of Faridpur on the 25th January last. Five persons were arrested and sent up for

Faridpur Hitaishini, Mar. 14th, 1901.

trial before the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Upendra Nath Mazumdar, who dismissed the case which he considered to have been got up by the police. But the police, in order to maintain their prestige, arrested the accused again under section 110, immediately after they had been discharged and sent them to *hajat*. *Policy* and *prestige* seem to be the guiding principle of the British Government. The Sub-Inspector, Babu Ananta Chandra Chakravarti, who held the enquiry is a B. A. of the Calcutta University. High hopes were entertained when graduates and under-graduates were made Sub-Inspectors of different police-stations under the new Police Examination Rules, but we are sadly disappointed to see the present state of affairs. Mr. De should enquire into the matter.

FARIDPUR HITAISHINI, Mar. 14th, 1901.

The police in a supposed murder case.

6. The same paper says that in the suspected murder case in which a person was found lying in the field without the head between Khamarpara and Ghosepur, the Sub-Inspector of the Bhusna thana held an enquiry four days after the date of occurrence. The man is supposed to have been murdered by dacoits, and much corroborative evidence has been discovered, and yet the culprits are still at large.

NAVAYUG, Mar. 16th, 1901.

Sale of cocaine in Calcutta.

7. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that the man who was fined Rs. 20 for selling cocaine in Beadon Street, immediately afterwards began to sell it again. In the premises No. 29, to the east of the Bengal Theatre, the sale of cocaine is carried on constantly and publicly. The owner of this place has opened a branch establishment in Cornwallis Street. Mr. Bird, the Superintendent of the Excise Department, should enquire into the matter and put a stop to the sale of this obnoxious drug without delay.

NAVAYUG.

Sale of liquor during unauthorised hours.

8. The same paper says everybody knows that, as a matter of fact, spirituous liquor is sold up to 2 A.M., although such sale is not authorised after 9 P.M. So long liquor used to be sold privately after 9 P.M., but the other day a wine shop at Baranhatta was found open after 10 P.M. and serving its customers publicly with two policemen standing at the door and cracking jokes.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

PRABHAT, Mar. 13th, 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

9. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 13th March says that Government certainly meant to insult Mr. Pennell by ordering him to return to Noakhali while, at the same time, it suspended him from office. Another object of this order was also undoubtedly to prevent him from consulting his advisers in Calcutta.

It has been clearly proved that Government considers Mr. Pennell more to blame than it does Mr. Reily. Mr. Reily, too, has been suspended; but no objection has been taken to his remaining in Calcutta, nor has the order of his suspension been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. This shows that, while Government feels no scruple in insulting a first grade Civilian Judge, it can show no disrespect to a police officer. The present affair may not improbably lead to Mr. Pennell's dismissal and to Mr. Reily's promotion.

Mr. Pennell's evil star is surely in the ascendant. This Noakhali case has quite distracted him. He will certainly be punished for the uncalled for remarks he has made in his judgment, and it is not easy to see why he has courted a new danger. The judgment was delivered on the 15th or 16th February. Why did he not make over the record to the High Court before the beginning of March? It is sure that neither the High Court nor the Government will forgive him.

We could not very much praise Mr. Pennell, principally because we saw from the beginning that he was doing harm to himself. If he loses his service, what will he gain thereby? He has said many things about the Viceroy and other persons which can not be approved. But nobody can help praising his courage and independence. He is being praised, and will continue to be praised by the people of the country, no matter what punishment he receives at the Government's hands. He is an extremely good writer. His language is simple and polished. Leaving aside the abuses, there is much in his judgment that is true, and whoever will read this will praise him.

We do not see how we can blame Mr. Pennell, if we suppose that blinded by anger at the bad treatment meted out to himself and the very different sort of treatment accorded to the offending officials in the Chapra case, he vented his wrath in the Noakhali judgment.

10. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 13th March has the following :— PRATINIDHI, Mar. 13th, 1901.

Mr. Pennell's suspension.

The Government reports disclose no satisfactory reason which may be held to justify this sudden suspension of Mr. Pennell. We do not know why the Chief Justice, without even seeing Mr. Pennell, ordered him to send the papers through the Registrar. This treatment of Mr. Pennell appears exceedingly astonishing and unaccountable to the public. It is a matter of deep regret that highly-placed judicial officers like the Chief Justice should fail to maintain the dignity of the Bench and to observe the ordinary rules of etiquette. Considering the fearless manner in which the highminded Mr. Pennell has tried the Noakhali case, and, in order to maintain the dignity of truth and justice, has shown himself ready to bear any misfortune that might befall him just as he was ready on previous occasions to suffer trouble and harassment, his suspension by Government has caused the deepest sorrow to the people of Bengal, though the matter is not one for which Mr. Pennell himself may feel sorry. If a removal of the veil which shrouds the acts of European officers has the effect of making the highest executive and judicial officers in the land thus lose their equanimity, their executive and judicial dignity will not appear of much value in public estimation. The point which first suggests itself to the public mind is not whether Mr. Pennell's judgment contains any unnecessary and irrelevant matter, or whether he has been guilty of insubordination, but the fact that the Government has shown extreme hastiness in suspending a District Judge. Even in deciding upon the suspension of a petty servant of Government more time is spent and greater deliberation is shown. The facts disclosed in the judgment should be carefully enquired into, and it is hoped His Excelleney the Viceroy will be able to see through the official mysteries in this case and do justice to Mr. Pennell.

11. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th March says that a perusal of Mr. Pennell's judgment in the Noakhali case has suggested to it the following observations :— SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Mar. 13th, 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

Mr. Pennell's heart is so formed that he forgets himself in indignation whenever he sees anything done wrong. It will, in fact, be no exaggeration to call him an incarnation of justice. As soon as he felt that Mr. Reily and other police officers of Noakhali were knowingly attempting to hush up the murder case, and as soon as he came to believe that Mr. Reily was perjuring himself, he lost his patience. His anger burst into a flame when he saw that Mr. Cargill, Magistrate of Noakhali, and Mr. Buckland, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, were supporting Mr. Reily.

After the Chapra case, Mr. Pennell had hoped that he would receive the thanks of the Government. But, instead of receiving thanks, he was, in consequence of his judgment in that case, transferred to an unhealthy station like Noakhali by way of punishment. This naturally made him displeased with the Government, and his displeasure was heightened when at Noakhali he lost his health and became subject to frequent attacks of dyspepsia and a colic pain, but was obliged at the same time to go on as usual with his official duties. From time to time he represented his condition to Sir John Woodburn, but failed to move his heart. Not a single prayer of his was granted, and he has been kept in Noakhali in this condition for about a year and a half. As a matter of course, he grew offended with Sir John Woodburn.

Mr. Pennell had hoped that at least the High Court, for the sake of justice, would side with him in the Chapra case. Unfortunately for him, the High Court Judges did the contrary and censured him. This convinced Mr. Pennell that there was no one to support the cause of justice in this country. And what he wrote in the Noakhali judgment against Sir John Woodburn, the Chief Justice and the other Judges of the High Court clearly showed that he wrote all this while smarting under a deep sense of wrong. Neither we ourselves nor anybody else will approve of the strictures he has passed against the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court Judges. But it

is clear that Mr. Pennell would not have been so driven out of his senses, nor would he have disclosed the private matters he has disclosed in his judgment, if he had not been transferred to Noakhali, or had been again transferred after a short stay at that unhealthy place, and if in the Chapra case he had received the slightest support from the High Court. That he has a very noble heart is clearly proved by his remarks about Mr. P. L. Roy, Mr. Justice Ghose and Babu Mati Lal Ghosh of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. His self-sacrifice is also unique. He comes of a good family, was the first of his year in the Civil Service Examination, and has influential connections in England. If he had behaved as Civilians ordinarily do, it is probable that in course of time his abilities backed by the influence of birth and connections would have placed him at the head of the provincial administration. But he has sacrificed himself for the sake of justice and out of solicitude for the good of the people of the country and has entered into a fierce contest with Sir John Woodburn, the Chief Justice and Lord Curzon. Even the enemies of a man who can make such a sacrifice as Mr. Pennell has done, must admit that, however unhinged his intellect may be, his heart is full of the noblest instincts.

Has it been right to suspend Mr. Pennell? When Mr. Pennell had grossly abused both the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court Judges, the task of passing judgment on him should, in our humble opinion, have been entrusted to the Secretary of State. We do not question the propriety of Mr. Pennell's suspension. What we mean to say is that considering the abuse levelled at the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court Judges by Mr. Pennell, flesh and blood as they are, they were likely to be biased against him, and should not, therefore, have taken it upon themselves to punish him. The manner in which Mr. Pennell was suspended clearly shows that his abuse had really disturbed their equanimity. Mr. Pennell's fault was very light, so light, indeed, that according to many pleaders and barristers his suspension has been quite illegal. Mr. Chapman had first called upon Mr. Pennell in order to take over the record. But Mr. Pennell refused to make over the record to him and went personally with it to the Chief Justice's house. The Chief Justice, however, refused to see him or to take over the record from his hands. We do know why the Chief Justice acted in this way. Mr. Pennell is not a black native. He is a European, born of a high family, a Civilian, a District Judge. Sir Francis Maclean would not have compromised his position by exchanging a few words with Mr. Pennell. At any rate, all clamour would have been avoided by his taking over the record from Mr. Pennell.

Subsequently, when Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks went to get the record, Mr. Pennell was going out, and asked them either to wait for a little time or call some time after. Those two gentlemen, however, returned to the High Court and reported that Mr. Pennell had refused to make over the record to them. The Judges of the High Court immediately held a meeting and decided that Mr. Pennell ought to be suspended from office for insubordination. Four of the Judges dissented, but the recommendation of the remaining eight was immediately communicated to the Lieutenant-Governor. This communication was made at four or five in the evening, and the Lieutenant-Governor's order suspending Mr. Pennell was communicated to that gentleman at 7-30 P.M. It took only two hours' time to get through this work, and Mr. Pennell was suspended on the strength of the report made by Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks without being even asked to explain his conduct. We fail to see what necessity there was to get through this momentous work in such haste. It shows that the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court Judges failed to act in regard to Mr. Pennell with that calmness with which they ought to have acted.

Contrast with this the Government's treatment of Mr. Reily, the officer who was alleged to have perjured himself in order to hush up a murder case. No more serious offence can be conceived than the one with which he stood charged. He was suspended by Government and was sent to *hajat* by Mr. Pennell. Yet it was by the Government's order that the Magistrate of Noakhali employed the services of the public prosecutor to apply for his bail. In the High Court, again, as soon as Mr. Hill applied for bail on Mr. Reily's behalf, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, without looking into the record of the case, at once granted bail, and directed the order to be communicated to the District

Judge by telegraph. All this was certainly unusual procedure. The truth is that the different treatment accorded to Mr. Reily and Mr. Pennell both by the Government and the High Court has astonished the public.

The people of Noakhali, according to a correspondent, were stricken with grief when they heard of Mr Pennell's suspension. Even illiterate peasants of Noakhali know his name, and on the evening of the 6th March last, a large number of villagers flocked at the gate of the house in which Mr. Pennell lived in order to get some news about him.

This great man has now incurred the displeasure of the Government and the High Court.

12. Referring to the suspension of Mr. Pennell, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes as follows:— SANJIVANI, Mar. 14th, 1901.

Mr Pennell's judgment.

The conclusions we have arrived at after reading Mr. Pennell's judgement are these:—

(1) Police Superintendents are great favourites of Government.

(2) A Police Superintendent is not punishable even if he illegally supports any accused person.

(3) If any Judge tries to punish a Police Superintendent he will incur the displeasure of Government and even of the High Court.

(4) Hence Police Superintendents are the masters of the country.

The facts of this case have no precedent or parallel. Certain persons were charged with murder. The police gave evidence in favour of the accused. The Sessions Judge sent the District Superintendent of Police to *hajat* for perjury, and the High Court and Government were anxious to release him.

We do not know if such scenes were ever before enacted in private life without the public knowing anything about them. But we have never before seen a man of Mr. Pennell's independence, courage, love of duty, entire disregard of personal interests, and devotion to the good of others. Had he been a man devoid of conscience and ready to obey all orders, then none would have heard a word of this Noakhali affair.

Public opinion regarding Mr. Pennell is that he has rendered a great service to the country by disclosing scandalous secrets of the existing judicial system. The people of this country had always entertained the idea that Judges always did their work independently after hearing the witnesses on both sides, and that they were entirely free in the matter of sentencing or acquitting accused persons, but this idea was being daily weakened. Mr. Pennell has now fully proved that Judges possess no independence at all.

Justices Ameer Ali and Pratt wired to Noakhali their order to release Mr. Reily from *hajat*; this they did without even reading Mr. Pennell's judgment. Such leniency on the part of the Judges of the High Court is seldom heard of. There is no precedent for issuing an order to release a prisoner from *hajat* without going through the papers of the case. Will the High Court show the same favour towards prisoners of all classes as it showed towards Mr. Reily?

Mr. Pennell is not a common man. Yet the Chief Justice refused him an interview. He kept him waiting; took no notice of him. Why was the Chief Justice in such high rage, and why did he insult Mr. Pennell in this way? Under the advice of Mr. Chapman, Mr. Pennell went to deliver the records of the case to the Chief Justice, yet he refused to take them.

All this happened with lightning speed, as if the Bengal Government had been sitting in expectation of the High Court's recommendation, and suspended Mr. Pennell as soon as it received it. The High Court recommended the suspension of Mr. Pennell without calling for an explanation from him, and he was suspended. The men who murdered Lord Mayo and Justice Norman were tried before their conviction, but Mr. Pennell has been punished without a trial.

Was Mr. Pennell really disobedient? Justice Ameer Ali had ordered that he must produce the records before the 7th March. Accordingly on the 3rd March he went to make over the papers to the Chief Justice; but the Chief Justice refused to take them. On the 4th March he asked Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks to wait for him, but they did not wait. In all this we do not find any proof of disobedience.

The only instance of disobedience was that Mr. Pennell did not release Mr. Reily on bail even after receiving the telegram ordering the release. But was he bound to obey such unlawful order? What right has the Chief Justice to interfere with the judicial work of his subordinate Judges? Mr Pennell did right in disregarding his order. In this he has shown no disobedience.

Mr. Pennell cannot be held disobedient for not giving the papers to Mr. Chapman, because Mr. Chapman was not the Registrar at that time. The Chief Justice refused to take the papers from him, and then punished him for disobedience in not producing them. Although Government has punished Mr. Pennell, yet he is being adored everywhere. An attorney has informed Mr. Pennell that if he betakes himself to the profession of an advocate, the attorneys will try to procure for him a monthly income of at least two and-a-half thousand rupees.

HITAVADI, Mar. 15th, 1901.

Mr. Merenda, Sarishtadar of the Chittagong Judge's Court.

13. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March says that Mr. Merenda, Sarishtadar of the Chittagong Judge's Court, is daily becoming more and more oppressive. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] formerly used to write against him, and succeeded in checking his highhandedness for some time, but that paper having ceased to notice his conduct, the Sarishtadar has begun his oppressions with fresh energy. It is hoped that the District Judge will keep a sharp eye on him.

HITAV DL.

Mr Pennell.

14. Referring to the Noakhali murder case the same paper writes as follows:—

Our feelings will receive a rude shock if the disclosures made by Mr. Pennell in the course of his judgment turn out to be true. We have firm faith in the veracity, simplicity and mental independence of the English people, and that is why we are in the habit of making various reflections whenever we happen to notice any case of oppression. We do not feel any hesitation even in taking the Viceroy to task. This political agitation and the keen and outspoken criticism by the newspapers are indications of that deep reverence and confidence and that affection implying sensitiveness which we entertain towards the English. But if we come to understand that in order to reassure us by words of false consolation and to deceive us by the charm of sweet enunciations of a liberal and philanthropic policy, great Englishmen have so long carried on the work of administration; that in the heart of hearts, they are all one and the same, a fraternity, that is, of knaves, with only an external polish; that it is only a flourish of words;—if a perusal of Mr. Pennell's judgment and the knowledge of the oppression to which he has been subjected confirms this belief in the public mind, then it will be inauspicious for both the sovereign and the subject.

For this reason we respectfully request Lord Curzon to pay particular attention to the Pennel affair. Let Mr. Pennell be tried before an open Court or by a Commission. If he be proved guilty, let him be severely punished. But if his words be all true, then let those officers who were ready to cast the stain of arbitrariness on the pure judicial system of the British Government be dismissed for good. The Pennell affair has thrown the whole country into a ferment. Every one feels some apprehension in his mind; every one looks bewildered. If the Government does not at this time act with firmness and independence, the seeds of real dissatisfaction and distrust will be sown in the country.

HITAVADI.

Dilatoriness of a Court Peshkar and a Court Sub-Inspector.

15. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Pakour in the Sonthal Parganas district, says that one Ajodhya Prasad Pande applied for permission to stand as a surety for an accused person, named Rajchandra Sardar. But the Court wanted to know what order it had passed against the man. On this Ajodhya Babu requested the Court Peshkar to produce the order. But so great was the delay made by the Peshkar in complying with the request that it was almost evening when the order was produced. It was then found out that the Court had required two persons to be the accused man's sureties. As there was no time on that day to arrange for the appearance of another surety, the accused had to suffer the hardships of *hajat* for the three following days, they being close holidays. On the 7th March, when the Court reopened, two respectable persons appeared and offered to stand as sureties for the accused, but

the Court Sub-Inspector refused to accept them as such on that day, and asked them to come on the next day. As the Court had risen by this time, it was not possible to apply against the Court Sub-Inspector. This had the effect of protracting the poor man's detention in *hajat*.

16. The same paper says that not only did Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Godda, attempt to take forcible possession of private land for the construction of a road from Karmatar to Sarani, but he has also arbitrarily taken possession of land belonging to private parties for the construction of a road through the village Pathargama. Five or six years ago, when he was temtemporarily stationed at Godda, he did the same thing for a road through Mahagam.

HITAVADI, Mar., 15th, 1901.

Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Godda.

17. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR. Mar. 15th, 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

Mr. Pennell's case is now under the consideration of the Government, so we do not like to say anything about it at present. But Mr. Pennell's fearless outspokenness is highly praiseworthy. In his judgment he has spared none from the Viceroy to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Judges of the High Court. To take so much liberty in the course of a judgment may seem improper in the eyes of the higher authorities, but there was no other course open to Mr. Pennell for the purpose of self-defence.

18. The same paper says that the name of Mr. Pennell is in everybody's mouth in India. The people's veneration for Mr. Pennell can be gathered from an incident which took place at Noakhali the other day. The people of Noakhali were very much anxious to have a glimpse of Mr. Pennell who was known to have gone to Darjeeling. So, when, instead of Mr. Pennell, Miss Pennell arrived at the station, many respectable pleaders, *mukhtars* and other residents of the place garlanded her and expressed their wish to petition the Government in favour of Mr. Pennell, from which, however, she dissuaded them. A meeting was also held to express sympathy with Mr. Pennell, which was joined by all the members of the local bar except the Government pleader. Large crowds also gathered in the High Court and in the Alipore Judge's Court to see Mr. Pennell. We hope this universal popularity of Mr. Pennell will create no feeling against him in the mind of the Government.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,

Miss Pennell at Noakhali.

19. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI, Mar. 16th, 1901.

The people and Mr. Pennell's judgment.

Mr. Pennell is a European, and does not differ from other Europeans. The people of this country have, therefore, no reason to be more partial to Mr. Pennell than they are to other Europeans. But we implore Government not to feel tempted to enquire why the people who live so happily under British rule are evincing so much eagerness to read Mr. Pennell's judgment and are talking so much over the Pennell affair. Truth to tell, most people have become partial to Mr. Pennell. This does not mean want of loyalty on anybody's part. On the contrary, most people who are partial to Mr. Pennell have come to believe that if only one officer like Mr. Pennell comes out to India in a century and serves it for sometime, the duration of British rule in this country will be increased a hundredfold.

Let the people say what they like. We ask Government not to pay heed to them. Among the officials the only mad man is Mr. Pennell, but as the subjects are far more numerous, it is natural that there should be a number of mad men among them. Mr. Pennell is gone mad; let him go mad. But let not Government with its followers follow suit.

20. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that there is no denying that Mr. Pennell, the late Judge of Noakhali, is a very upright judicial officer. His name is now familiar to every household in Bengal. In Bengal, wherever he went as a Judge, he gained the applause of the natives. When Mr. Pennell's sister went to Noakhali to bring his furniture, the people of that town expressed their grief at the mishap which had befallen him, and said that they would remain ever indebted to Mr. Pennell for the good work he had done for them. The people of Mymensingh and the vakils and barristers of Dacca at the meetings which they held expressed their sympathy with Mr. Pennell.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 16th, 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 14th, 1901.

Preparation of text-books under the new vernacular education scheme.

21. Referring to the notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, regarding the preparation of text-books in connection with the new vernacular education scheme, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March says that the merits of Bengali books will be henceforward judged from their English translations. Books selected by a man like Dr. Guru Das Banerji have failed to satisfy the Government. It will be a fine thing to see Englishmen selecting standard Bengali books after reading their English translations.

HITAVADI, Mar. 15th, 1901.

The Bengali passage set for translation in the Entrance Examination.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March says that this year also the Bengali of the passage set to the Entrance examination candidates for translation into English was very miserable. The question paper was disfigured by many printing mistakes. Why are the authorities of the University unable to improve the Bengali of this translation paper?

NAVAYUG, Mar. 16th, 1901.

Miss Nirmalabala Shome as an University examiner.

23. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 16th March says that as most of the Entrance examiners are natives of this country and Hindus, and as there are a good many experienced and educated males fit to be examiners, the appointment of Miss Nirmalabala Shome, M.A., who is a Christian, as one of the examiners in English for that examination appears unnatural to the people of these provinces. The authorities of the University are reducing the examination system to a farce.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

JYOTI, Mar. 14th, 1901.

Oppressions at ferry-ghats.

24. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th March says that the District Board has established many ferry-ghats in this part of the country, not for the convenience of the public, but to raise a revenue for itself. This is shown by the fact that it is quite indifferent to the inconveniences of the public and to the oppressions committed on them by most of the ghatwallas.

KHULNA, Mar. 14th, 1901.

Water scarcity in a village in the Khulna district.

25. A correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th March says that there being no tanks in the village of Jhinaikhali in the Khulna district, the people suffer acutely from water scarcity, which produces various diseases. Use of the impure water of the local *khal* during the summer spreads cholera among the inhabitants. The District Board should remove their sufferings by excavating a new tank.

BASUMATI, Mar. 21st, 1901.

Plague and the *bustis* in Calcutta.

26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st March says that year after year it is seen that the plague rages with greater force in the *bustis* than anywhere else. But it is a matter of great regret that the Calcutta Municipality does not care to improve the condition of the *bustis*. It is not to be expected that there should be no *bustis* in Calcutta; for so long as the poor will exist, they too will exist. But the Municipality should take special care to improve the sanitary condition of these localities.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI, Mar 15th, 1901.

Zamindars and raiyats.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes as follows:—

Whatever may be the status of zamindars according to law, they are still considered as rajas or lords in all matters by their Hindu subjects. The wants and grievances of the tenants are still brought before the zamindari *cutcherry*. But there are zamindars and zamindars. The absentee zamindars do not care for their tenants, but live amidst the luxuries of Calcutta. Tanks, temples, charitable institutions and the like in the villages have become a thing of the past. If the zamindars fail in their duty, it is no wonder that the tenants should become insolent and litigious. The Hindu tenants never understand law, but they understand man. If the zamindar be good, there is no occasion to have recourse to the law-courts, neither any occasion for so much appeal or agitation.

The sale-law has become a source of great mischief. Thanks to that law, pleaders and money lenders have now taken the place of zamindars. Good-feeling between the zamindars and their tenants should be promoted and the rigour of the land laws should be relaxed. The Zamindars' Association of Calcutta, we are glad to learn, is trying its best to do this. The Association can justly claim the privileges which it has asked Government to confer on it. We shall be glad if the generous Lieutenant-Governor kindly considers the matter.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

28. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 13th March says that the absence of a waiting room for intermediate and third class passengers at the Kharagpur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway causes great inconvenience to the public. The passengers are not allowed admittance into the large hall of the booking office. The shed called *Musaferkhana* which was intended to be a waiting room for third class passengers, was too filthy and small to serve the purpose. That too has lately been burnt down. The booking clerk issues tickets just 10 or 15 minutes before a train leaves the station, and uses abusive language towards the passengers. Many railway employés oppress the passengers when getting into trains.

A railway complaint.

MEDINI BANDHAV, Mar. 13th, 1901.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March learns from a correspondent that the clerks of the railway office at Sahibganj were allowed only a half-holiday on account of the Dol Jatra festival, because they had got a day's leave for the census work, most of them having been nominated as enumerators. A few days before they had been deprived of the Sri Panchami holiday on the ground that they had been granted a half-holiday on the death of the late Queen-Empress.

Gazetted holidays not observed in the railway office at Sahibganj.

HITAVADI, Mar. 15th, 1901

(h)—General.

30. A pleader of Bankipore writing in the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th March says that recently, while travelling from Bankipore to Benares, he was detained at Chausa, because the plague doctor found that he had travelled in the same carriage with a plague patient, although he was in the compartment at one extremity of the carriage and the patient occupied the one at the other extremity. It was after much entreaty that he could prevail on the doctor to allow him to return to Bankipore, which is itself an infected place, after having undergone disinfection at Chausa. Some 20 or 21 passengers who had travelled in the same carriage were, however, detained in the plague camp. An old woman and her boy who were going to Benares to observe the *Sivaratri* festival were among those who were detained.

The plague examination at Chausa.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Mar. 18th, 1901.

The editor says that this shows that the rigours of plague examination have not been relaxed.

31. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 17th March says that the constant changes made in the Census forms proved a source of considerable loss and harassment to the enumerators and supervisors who had to go constantly to the higher officers for instructions. Under the *begar* system the work was not satisfactorily done in many places. Things might have been better managed if in the place of 8 or 10 low-class and illiterate *chaukidars* on small salary one educated man had been employed on their aggregate pay. The *chaukidars* generally do not do their duty. On the contrary, in many instances, they either directly or indirectly commit theft, dacoity, &c. So an educated man with a greater sense of responsibility might have done the work more satisfactorily. Many other duties connected with the public administration might be entrusted to such an educated officer without any loss or objection. Such an officer and a servant to assist him could everywhere be maintained even on a monthly salary of Rs. 20 which is half of what 10 chaukidars get per month. Such a course would remove the defects which characterise the multifarious work now performed by the chaukidars, and would be a great blessing to the people.

Census *begar*.

DACCA PRAKASH, Mar. 17th, 1901.

III.—Legislation.

Burdwan Sanjivani, Mar 12th, 1901.

Mr. Cotton and the Assam coolies.

32. Referring to the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th March writes as follows:—

The Hon'ble Mr. Cotton in a fine speech clearly explained that the coolies do not get even the fixed wages of Rs. 5 a month. Those who can do the full amount of work get 3 annas a day, but if the amount of work falls short, their daily wages are reduced. When the Bill was in the hands of the Select Committee, Mr. Cotton proposed to fix the amount which should be paid as the daily wages of the coolies instead of their monthly pay, but his proposal was rejected. Mr. Cotton has pointed out that coolies other than those who bind themselves by contract earn 6 annas a day in Assam, whereas the latter cannot earn more than 3 annas a day. He has also pointed out that the coolies are no better than slaves. Mr. Cotton has said much in favour of the coolies, but unfortunately for them his labours have proved infructuous.

Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika, Mar. 13th, 1901.

The passing of the Cooly Law.

33. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes as follows:—

Every Indian eagerly waited for the result of the debates on the Cooly Bill, because it contained a provision which would have benefited the poor slave-like coolies. The introduction of the Bill in the Council had created a sensation and tumult among tea-planters and European merchants. The *Englishman* likened the agitation to the *Nildarpan* and Ilbert Bill agitations, and was of opinion that an increase of the pay of coolies would ruin the tea-planters. But Mr. Cotton adduced proofs and arguments which clearly demonstrated that by virtue of the existing provision of the law relating to the pay of coolies, the tea-planters were fattening themselves at the expense of the unfortunate coolies. His calm and grave speech, full of cogent arguments, was enough to convince every just man that the tea-planters were morally bound to increase the pay of coolies. But, alas, the unfortunate are never destined to enjoy happiness!

Mr. Cotton's speech in the Council made the representatives of the tea-planters extremely uneasy, and even an intelligent Viceroy like Lord Curzon could not keep quiet after listening to it. The native members did their duty by supporting Mr. Cotton.

Most people had foreseen the fate that awaited the measure. But the Indians will remain for ever grateful to Mr. Cotton for the manner in which he brought the miserable condition of the coolies to the notice of the Council. In a struggle between the weak and the strong, self-interest would be sure to support the cause of the strong. But, if among the officials there was one man, who, disregarding self-interest, girt up his loins to remove the silent suffering of the poor, the weak and the helpless, that man would be entitled to the homage due to a god.

The story of cooly life given by Mr. Cotton in his speech weighs heavily upon our hearts and is enough to move us to tears. It filled us with the same indescribably painful sensations which we experience in reading Mrs. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Mr. Cotton had to suffer much for writing his book *New India*. If he had not written that book, which is full of sympathy for the Indians, he might to-day have been appointed the Lieutenant-Governor of a province. But he did not care for preferment and has contentedly borne all hardships and disappointments. He said that he was painfully aware that the Cooly Bill agitation had alienated from him the sympathy of his countrymen. But a kind-hearted, upright and sympathetic man that he is, he was not daunted by frowns or influenced by prospects of reward, but fearlessly advocated the cause of the weak and the oppressed and thereby earned the ever-lasting gratitude, if not of his own countrymen, of at least the Indians and the blessings of Heaven.

Bharat Ratna, Mar. 14th, 1901.

The Hindu Religious Endowments Bill.

Legislative Council.

34. The *Bharat Ratna* [Patna City] of the 14th March says that Mr. Ananda Charlu ought not to be sorry for his failure to have his Endowments Bill passed by the Supreme

The argument which the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton brough

forward is worth noticing. He says that as no desire has been expressed for the passing of such a Bill by the uneducated portion of the Hindu community, the Council cannot do anything in the matter. Mr. Bolton's argument, as a matter of fact, is very good. But it is a regret that it is not applicable to other similar cases. Nor does the Viceregal Council think it worth its while to pay heed to public opinion in regard to any Bill. Mr. Bolton ought to know that the Age of Consent Bill was supported by a handful of the educated Hindus, and that the masses were against that Bill. Such being the case, no member of the Supreme Council said on the occasion of the Consent Bill anything like what was said by Mr. Bolton on this occasion. For the failure of Mr. Charlu we cannot blame the official class. But it is a regret that the Hindus whom the Bill concerns, and who are actually suffering on account of the mismanagement which prevails in their holy places, have gone the length of opposing it.

The Assam Labour Act.

35. Referring to the passing of the Assam Labour Bill, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI, Mar. 14th, 1901.

The conflict is between capital and labour—between the English planter and the cooly. While capital has got its friends in the persons of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor, labour has got none. Mr. Cotton became acquainted with the hardships of the coolies; he found them on the point of starvation. He was made acquainted with the fact that for want of sufficient food and nourishment, cases of miscarriage were common among cooly women, and that thin emaciated coolies were dying by the side of the roads and rivers in Assam. He could not remain silent after witnessing this oppression of the coolies and found himself compelled to stand up as their friend.

The price of labour has increased everywhere in India. But Government, in the interests of the proprietors of tea gardens, has so long refrained from sanctioning any increase in the wages of tea-garden coolies by means of legislation. Necessaries of life have become dearer everywhere, but the wages of the Assam coolies have not been increased. In fact, not a few coolies are dying for want of sufficient food, and sometimes of starvation. Mr. Cotton was anxious to remove this great stain on the good name of the Government. It was at his instance that the Government of India drafted a Bill to amend the existing labour law, inserting therein a condition that the wages of tea-garden coolies should be raised by one rupee per month The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal promised to support Mr. Cotton in regard to the proposed increase. When the Labour Bill was introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council the great majority of the members, in deference to the views of the planting community, recommended an increase of annas eight instead of rupee one. The highminded Mr. Cotton spoke against the proposed alteration, but none listened to him. Mr. Cotton however, has clearly proved the justice of increasing the coolies' wages.

Although it has been enacted that the coolies will receive an increment of annas eight to their wages from the second year of their contract, still the new provision will not come into operation before the year 1903. In great mental anguish did Mr. Cotton say that this postponement would frustrate the advantages which the Act contemplates conferring on the coolies. The Viceroy was dissatisfied with this remark of Mr. Cotton's. But we think that what Mr. Cotton said was true. There cannot be a greater injustice than to take away the independence of the coolies, and make them labour for low wages. The Cooly Law is a great stain on the good name of the English Government, but so powerful is capital that officials do not dare to repeal it.

Mr Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

36. Referring to the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March writes as follows:—

HITAVADI, Mar. 15th, 1901.

In his speeches in the Council Lord Curzon gave free expression to the sentiments of kindness, humanity, generosity and sympathy, and we were led to believe that he would spare no efforts to remove the miseries of the coolies. We had thought that if Government only came to know the facts, it would be able to do much to ameliorate the condition of tea-garden coolies. But the Act leaves the powers of the owners of the garden intact, while all attempts to increase the wages of the labourers have been frustrated. We, however, give our hearty

thanks to the highminded Mr. Cotton. His admirable speech has delighted us. An official like Mr. Cotton is sure to be worshipped like a god by all Indians.

BANGAVASI, Mar. 16th, 1901.

The Cooly Law,

37. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th March writes as follows :—

The proposed increase of one rupee in the pay of tea-garden coolies has not received the sanction of the legislature. The strong protest of the planting community prevented the Council from carrying its point. Out of deference to that community, the Viceroy had increased the number of members to represent it in the Council. Mr. Buckingham, a tea planter, was already in the Council, and another tea-planter, Mr. Henderson, was now appointed to it. Sir Allan Arthur, the merchant member in the Council, took the side of the planters, because the mercantile interest is intimately connected with the tea industry. Mr. Ashton, too, is a partisan of the planters. There was, therefore, a stout protest inside the Council, and outside it there was the protest of the general body of tea-planters and of their organs in the Press.

The protest bore fruit, and Mr. Cotton's cry on behalf of the coolies was a cry in the wilderness. Who can say what will or will not take place two years hence? For the present, there will be no improvement in the pecuniary condition of the coolies. Will Mr. Cotton be able to witness with patience the sufferings of the coolies for two years more?

Lord Curzon thinks that two years hence, planters will not object to the increase of pay provided for in the Act, and that coolies will then get, without opposition, the sanctioned increase of eight annas in their pay. But the tone of the *Englishman* and other papers, which are fighting in the planters' interest, is alarming. They are exulting over the victory of the planters and the defeat of Mr. Cotton, and are openly saying that one need not trouble oneself now for what will take place two years hence.

A tone like this is not re-assuring, and will not be probably liked by Lord Curzon himself. But it is time the tea-planters took a lesson. In spite of the restriction imposed upon the coolies by law, hunger may drive them mad, and dissatisfied coolies can only mean injury to the industry. The defunct indigo industry bears testimony to this. The indigo-planters were confident that their undisputed sway would last for all time. But, alas, there are no longer indigo-planters or an indigo industry in Bengal. The tea-planters should beware that they do not share the fate of the indigo-planters.

It ought to have been carefully ascertained whether the planters' cry about depression in the tea industrry was really justifiable. The Act was passed on the 8th March, and the quotations of the English market on the 9th March showed that the tea-market was looking up.

DACCA GAZETTE, Mar. 18th, 1901.

Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

38. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 18th March has the following:—

The noble courage and love of justice shown by Mr. Cotton have no parallel. India's friend, the highminded Mr. Cotton, is a real friend of the coolies. His total disinterestedness became manifest during the discussion on the Assam Labour Bill. In pleading the cause of the poor coolies, he has lost the sympathy of his countrymen. He has been severely taken to task by the *Englishman* and its supporters. But in spite of all this he did not swerve from his duty. Some time ago he earned the gratitude of all India by writing his *New India*, and now by advocating the cause of the helpless tea-garden coolies in the Imperial Legislative Council, he has done something for which the whole country will cherish his memory for all time. Praised be Mr. Cotton. Thanks to his love of justice and sense of duty. That England is to-day the mistress of a vast empire is because she possesses just and generous sons like Mr. Cotton.

BASUMATI, Mar. 21st, 1901.

Mr. Cotton.

39. Referring to the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st March writes as follows in an article headed "Defeat of Mr. Cotton, the god of Assam":—

Nobody had anything to say by way of protest against the admirable and eloquent speech made by Mr. Cotton in the Council. Considering the views expressed by the Viceroy on the proposed law, Mr. Cotton had expected to find support from His Excellency. But to the great misfortune of the labourers,

Lord Curzon found no way to help them. We see no reason why the Act should remain inoperative for the next two years.

Many reasons may be assigned for this postponement. Who knows that Mr. Cotton will remain the Chief Commissioner of Assam after two years? Who knows that the man who will succeed him in Assam will be of the same kind and generous disposition? There is hardly any possibility of the return after two years of the opportunity which has now been lost.

We have found that in the matter of safeguarding the interests of the tea-planters, officials and non-officials are equally mindful of their duty. We have learned that even those on whom is laid the heavy responsibility of governing the country, who dispense happiness and misery to crores of subjects, who direct the course of justice do not at all shrink from forsaking the path of duty in order to support the merchants of their country. But they should know that, however beneficial such conduct may prove at the beginning, in the end it will not be able to preserve and nourish the people's loyalty to the Government.

The wounds which are inflicted on our feelings by such acts of the enlightened and virtuous British Government cannot be healed by the consoling words of officials. Then why all this trouble and all this deceit? Still we love and revere the English, because there still exists in the midst of thousands of unfeeling, unsympathetic and ungenerous English officials a god in the person of Mr. Cotton. The name of Mr. Cotton will become immortal in India.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

40. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 14th March writes as follows:— RANGPUR DIKPRAKASH, Mar. 14th, 1901.

The memorial question.

In a poor country like India instead of monuments, memorial halls and the like, the people require and prize such memorials as would help to remove their wants to some extent. Lord Curzon is a resolute, cool and wise ruler, and a great well-wisher of ours; what he wants to do will no doubt be for our good. But yet the poor would prefer to have their wants supplied first. So let there be a Central Memorial Hall in Calcutta according to the wishes of the Viceroy; but let the provincial memorials be such as may help the poor to obtain food. Let the name Victoria be a household word like Rani Bhabani or Ahalya Bai who have acquired immortal names by feeding the poor.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March says that Babu Lakshman Das, Vakil of the Allahabad High Court, has set apart a lakh of rupees for the purpose of commemorating the late Empress. From the interest of the money scholarships will be given to 50 Brahmin and Kshatriya students in order to enable them to receive higher education. The scholarships will be named "Victoria Scholarships." Babu Lakshman Das has deserved the gratitude of all Indians; and although his name will not be inscribed on the doors of the Victoria Hall, yet it will remain engraved in bright letters on the hearts of the Indians. HITAVADI, Mar. 15th, 1901.

Babu Lakshman Das's memorial to the late Queen-Empress.

42. The same paper writes as follows:— HITAVADI.

The Mahanta of Chandranath.

Kailas Chunder Das, Manager of the Court of Wards, Chittagong, who was the mainstay of Kissori Mohan Ban, the notorious Mahanta of Chandranath, being dead, the instinct of self-preservation now leads the Mahanta to please and humour all Europeans. He is much pleased to think that the illiterate public take him to be a highly learned man who is favoured by Europeans, although he is quite ignorant of the English and Sanskrit languages, and manages to carry on conversation with Europeans in Hindi. For the sake of showing courtesy to a man who renders unsolicited help, even the Magistrates and the Commissioners of Chittagong are obliged to be indifferent to the oppressions committed by him. The Magistrate is soliciting money from the public for the repairs of the temple which is in a dilapidated condition brought about by negligence of the Mahanta. It is a matter of great wonder that in doing so he has not spoken a word to the Mahanta.

The other day, simply to gain his favour, the Mahanta accompanied Mr. K. G. Gupta to the temple. Kissori Mohan's predecessors used to set out from the temple in a palanquin twice a year on the day of *Bejoya* and people used to run after them to see them. But now Kissori Mohan runs after Europeans to please them and spends large sums from the temple-money to the great dissatisfaction of the Hindu community. The Mahanta uses the temple-money for his own luxury, and seldom visits the temple to which he owes his high position. But he accompanies the Europeans in order to please them. While the religious services are done perfunctorily, and the Sanyasi guests are not looked after, the income of the endowment is freely spent in the service of European Christians! What can be more disgraceful than this? For the last 10 or 12 years the idol has been inaccessible to the pilgrims, who are not allowed to touch it or bathe it with milk and water as before. There had been much agitation about the matter, and the local officers were also appealed to, but all to no purpose. So we, on behalf of the pilgrims, appeal to our kind-hearted Lieutenant-Governor, who we hope will earn the gratitude of the people by taking adequate measures in the matter. We are extremely grieved to see such scandals taking place in a Hindu temple while society and Government are looking on with indifference. We dwell upon the subject again and again in the hope that it will receive the attention of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA, Mar. 20th, 1901.

43. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th March has the following:—

An expression of the tea-planters' gratitude to Lord Curzon.

The Viceroy has upheld the cause of justice by passing the Cooly Bill and has conciliated the tea-planters by postponing the operation of the new law for two years. This has been fit policy for a diplomat. Mr. Buckingham, the tea-planters' representative in the Council, has already sent round letters to the tea-planters, asking them, in token of gratitude, to subscribe to the Victoria Memorial Fund. But did not the same Mr. Buckingham urge, in the course of the discussion on the Bill, that the present was a very bad time for the tea-planters, so much so that they would be completely ruined if the new law was at once put into operation? How then is he already asking for subscriptions from those very planters? Where will those who are unable to pay eight annas more a month to poor coolies, find money to pay subscriptions for the construction of the Victoria Hall, which will be only a luxury? Mr. Buckingham should advise the tea platers to raise the money from the coolies, who, according to him, are in affluent circumstances.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Feb. 27th, 1901.

44. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 27th February is of opinion that caste figures, as extracted from the census schedules, are never correct, in as much as a large number of men have entered themselves as members of superior castes, though they belong to inferior castes.

Caste figures in the census.

SAMVADVAHIKA, Mar. 7th, 1901.

45. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 7th March is sorry to find that the population of the Balasore town has decreased by 196 souls and states that this decrease may be explained by the fact that a large number of the residents of the town had left the town on the census night on a pilgrimage to *Gopinathji* at Remuna and to the *Mahadev* at Kherang.

The reason why the population of Balasore shows a decrease.

URIYA AND NAVASAMAAD, Mar. 6th, 1901.

UTKALDIPIKA, Mar. 9th, 1901.

46. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 6th March and the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 9th March give the substance of the Noakhali murder case and the action of Mr. Pennell in connection therewith, but reserve their opinion till the confirmation of the sentences by the High Court. They, however, look upon the judgment of Mr. Pennell as wonderfully long and state that they have had very little time to go through it in detail.

Mr. Pennell's judgment.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD. Mar. 6th, 1901.

47. Relying on its Puri correspondent, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 6th March states that a large number of pilgrims were collected in that town on the census night, but they were counted without any difficulty, as Mr. Luson, the District Magistrate, had made every arrangement, not only for

Mr. Luson's arrangements at Puri on the census night.

their accommodation, but for their enumeration. Though stationed in the Puri town for a short period, Mr. Luson made himself popular by his politeness, charity and good judgment. He took considerable pains to look after the comforts of the poor pilgrims, who were housed in temporary *taties* free of cost. The pilgrims suffered much during their journey in the railway carriages, for the Company could not procure a sufficient number of third class carriages for them, and, as an inevitable result, many of them were carried in the goods train and wagons like so many inanimate objects. The writer hopes that the railway authorities will give orders to run special trains in seasons of festivals, when a large number of pilgrims are expected to visit Puri.

The extra Munsif at Puri and his staff ignorant of Uriya.

48. Referring to the Court of the extra Munsif at Puri, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttuck] of the 9th March states that neither the Munsif nor his establishment know Uriya, which is the Court language in Orissa. How will they go on with their work, asks the writer. The Munsif should not have brought his establishment from Bengal. The District Judge, Cuttack, might have provided him with a Uriya-knowing establishment.

UTKALDIPIKA, Mar. 9th, 1901.

The Governor of Madras mixing with his native subjects.

49. The same paper is glad to learn that the Governor of Madras is mixing freely with the poor people of his Presidency and trying to ascertain their wants and grievances. The writer observes that this gracious act on the part of His Excellency is opportune, for the English officials have for a long period lost their touch with the people whom they are sent to govern, and have managed to live in India as aliens. It is hoped that the English officers will know their people better.

UTKALDIPIKA.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 23rd March, 1901.

J. Bose—Reg. No. 80820—75—27-3-1901.